

U.S. Rep. Crenshaw, business ambassadors tour area facilities

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U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw (R-FL) of the 4th Congressional district and a group of business ambassadors from the Philippines made a whirlwind tour through Lake City Monday.

For close to six hours the group visited several local establishments and facilities which had connections to the local Filipino-American community, on its way to the annual chamber of commerce banquet.

When Crenshaw arrived for his visit he was greeted by Jocelyn Batoon-Garcia, Minister and Consul General, Maj. Gen. Delfin N. Lorenzana (Ret.), Special Presidential Representative, and Florenda L. Herrera, Labor Attache, all from the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Washington.

During the groups' tour through the area, visits were made to the Client Logic Facility, the Robert H. Jenkins, Jr., Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida and the Lake City Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

"It was thrilling," said Greg Bush, the Client Logic site director, which was the first location to host the contingent. "It's the first time we've had a visit of this caliber, so it's been really exciting to be able to meet both the consul general and the congressman. It's been a great visit."

The Client Logic Company has two facilities in the Philippines and during a brief meeting with local company representatives, Crenshaw and the ambassadors were able to discuss the similarities of the two companies.

The trip to the Client Logic was followed by a visit to the Robert H. Jenkins, Jr., Veterans' Domiciliary where Crenshaw looked over an expansion project at the facility and where the ambassadors were greeted by a Filipino-American delegation of nurses and other medical employees as they visited with patients.

Polly Tyler, Domiciliary administrator, said the facility is the only veterans Domiciliary in the state and normally accommodates close to 149 residents, but during the renovation period, its population has been down to about 103 residents.

Crenshaw serves on a veterans committee in Washington and the \$1 million grant for the local domiciliary renovation came through his office.

"Part of his visit Monday had to do with seeing what the grant has accomplished," she said.

Tyler also noted that many of the domiciliary residents, who are World War II veterans, wanted to see Crenshaw after he gave them certificates recognizing their military service.